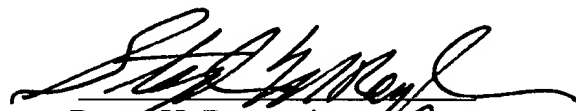


**REMARKS**

By this amendment, the claims have been amended to correct minor idiomatic and grammatical errors and to place the application in accepted U.S. format. Claims 17 and 25 were previously amended by the Examiner's Amendment of September 22, 2004. Claims 18 and 28 were canceled by the same Examiner's Amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the present amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §312(a) since it does not require an additional search or examination.

If there should be any questions about this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Seiji SHIRAI et al.

  
Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027 *Reg no 31,296*

December 10, 2004  
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